

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY  
 REMARKS AT SIGNING CEREMONY, WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE NURMAGAMBETOV  
 ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN  
 MARCH 19, 1994

**MINISTER NURMAGAMBETOV:** We would like to summarize the results of the visit of the Secretary of Defense of the USA..

Today Mr. Perry has been received by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nazarbayev. An exchange of views has taken place. And a long talk with those negotiations which have initiated with the last visit with the Vice President to the USA have been continued. And I hope that Mr. Perry is quite content with the results of this visit. In addition to this there was the meeting at the Ministry of Defense when Mr. Perry met the Minister of Defense and the rest of the delegation. We have discussed quite a wide range of issues -- issues of cooperation with Japan. And I would like to state that no agreement with military cooperation has been signed yet.

We have been agreed on establishing working groups on a more profound and detailed study of the issues. Technically the meeting and the discussions have been made in an atmosphere of openness. That is so far as the first part of today's work and the second part has been conducted by the First Prime Minister Mr. Abusidin(SP?). The Accord on cooperation in the field of conversion of the Defense industry has been fine. This agreement has been signed by Mr. Perry and by me.

Now ladies and gentlemen, since we are very short of time. You're welcome to give the questions of yours to Mr. Perry or Mr. Abusidin(SP?).

**Q.** Earlier today, your President said he expected that Kazakhstan and Russia would sign an agreement before the end of the month to resolve the problems of compensation for nuclear materials (inaudible) and shipments would resume. How quickly do you think those shipments would resume after the agreement is signed?

**A.** As the President said, everything will be done. The draft of the agreement is already prepared, but it needs some additional proceeding. As far as the removal of the warheads are concerned, we shall prepare this schedule. This is a very complicated process as you know. After we agreed on a schedule of removal of these warheads from our territory with the Russian Federation, as soon as we do this the removal will take its actual implementation. Here I would like to clarify that Kazakhstan keeps to the approach that we need the compensation for the removal of warheads. The decision of these issues can demand some time for the final decision.

**Q.** Have you submitted a list of weapons making plants that you're willing to convert? If you have, can you give us a couple of examples. For example, do these include the biological weapons making facilities?

I would like to address this question to Mr. (inaudible), who is the Deputy Minister. The list of such enterprises and the marriage we've planned has been approved by our government and I would like to say that such lists exist. So the second part of the question

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A. We don't have weapons of biological destruction and we never had them and we never could use, could produce such things.

MR. ABUSIDIN (SP?): I would like to say something in addition to the answer. Today we join with Mr. Perry and have conducted the first meeting of the US-Kazakhstan Conversion Committee. During this meeting our experts in Kazakhstan together with their American counterparts have exchanged the information about the defense potential of Kazakhstan which needs to be the subject to different conversions.

Today we are not in a position to surrender a definite list of military plans which are subject to process the conversion units. I would say that this work of talking points will be a discussion of the issues of which plants will be converted and which are not in the subject of our future co-workings. I hope that the next meeting which is to be held in autumn in Washington will really be devoted to the practical issues of the conversion.

So I would like you to address your questions to Mr. Perry because he is our guest.

Q. Mr. Perry, we have read the paper that you delivered at (inaudible) in which you said that Russia could possibly develop into an imperialist, totalitarian state. So my question is related to the geopolitical position of Kazakhstan, which is located between China on the one hand and Russia on the other. Is it the intention of the United States of America to provide for the security of Kazakhstan?

SECRETARY PERRY: Let me first of all say that the main point in that paper was that Russia had every possibility of developing into a democratic state with a market economy and the United States was committed to helping that positive outcome develop.

But Kazakhstan lives in a area of the world where there are security dangers facing it on both sides. Therefore Kazakhstan seeks security assurances, and that's understandable. The United States and Kazakhstan have under discussions the possibility of establishing security assurances that would be multi-lateral between the United States, Kazakhstan, Russia and perhaps the United Kingdom.

Q. I'd like to address this to both the Defense Secretary and the Minister of Defense. In the Minister's opening remarks he mentioned that there is no agreement on mutual military cooperation. I wonder whether there (inaudible) to reach an agreement on that subject, or is there some problem?

MINISTER: You might not understand my remarks in the proper way, or I might not express myself correctly. We reached full and mutual understanding on all the issues related within the framework of today's meeting. I have mentioned for implementation of

the issues which have been worked out and discussed, we have established special working groups of experts. And I would like to make myself clear that actually the discussion between me and Mr. Perry was founded on a basis of mutual understanding and of business on a mutually friendly basis. That's why please take this into account. There were no disagreements between the two of us.

Q. Did you discuss the possibility of Kazakhstan joining the NATO Partnership for Peace Program and if so, what significance do you attach to Kazakhstan's participation in such a program?

SECRETARY PERRY: I believe that Kazakhstan joining the Partnership for Peace would be a very positive development both for Kazakhstan and for NATO in the Partnership for Peace. We did also discuss that Russia announced yesterday that it intends to join the Partnership for Peace at the end of this month. I think that that also is a very positive development.

MODERATOR: I'm afraid we only have time for one more question.

Q. Inaudible.

SECRETARY PERRY: There is an important distinction between a security guarantee and a security assurance. I was referring to a security assurance and a multilateral security assurance and that is what is being discussed between Kazakhstan, the United Kingdom and Russia. Where the four signatories to the security assurance if this is reached would be agreed to not use force -- to use only peaceful means to resolve problems between any of these countries. It is an assurance, it is not a guarantee. It is not a statement that we would go to war on any issue that arose with Kazakhstan.

Press: Thank you very much. (End of briefing)

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